



U.S. Department of Justice

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Apr 12, 2007

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: John G. Bergin

**CASINO GAMBLER WHO COMMITTED BANK
FRAUD TO FUND HIS HABIT SENTENCED TO PRISON**

A resident of suburban Chicago was sentenced today to 16 months' imprisonment on a conviction for devising a scheme to defraud a federal insured credit union. The purpose of the scheme was to obtain funds to gamble at a Detroit casino. The sentence was announced earlier today by Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Receiving the sentence from U.S. District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff was John G. Bergin, 42, who pleaded guilty to the bank fraud charge in January 2007. At the plea hearing, Bergin admitted that he made bogus deposits into his savings account at Think Federal Credit Union by depositing empty deposit envelopes into ATMs located in Oakland County. This fraudulently inflated his account balance and enabled Bergin to withdraw cash from ATMs in metropolitan Detroit and purchase merchandise using his ATM/debit card. All of the fraudulent activity occurred in March 2006. Bergin used most of the fraudulent proceeds, which totaled

\$80,000, at the Motor City Casino.

Judge Zatkoff also ordered Bergin to serve a three-year term of supervised release following his release from prison and pay \$80,000 in restitution to Think Federal Credit Union.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Gambling addiction is a serious disorder that can often lead to criminal activity designed to generate funds to further the addiction. While our prosecutors would prefer to see severely addicted individuals seek help to arrest behavior stemming from the disorder, we will aggressively prosecute those gamblers who use fraud to steal large sums of money from others."

The investigation of this case was conducted by the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Hiyama.